/257 cont./

804 As a practical means for their calculations, they will even make a small stick the size of an arm span or a handspan; they are, nevertheless, individual and casual measurements.

797 872 803 The arithmetic tables already consitute a serious difficulty for the school children, in spite of being a mere question of memory. Those of better progress do not manage to perform the four operations after /258/ three or four years of attending school. And one notices in all great difficulty in solving the simplest problem in mathematics.

804 805 It seems that it is equally difficult for them to estimate time, as well as distance and area; thus, they are apt to answer that the length of a room is three kilometers and the course of a river, one hundred meters.

c) Aströnomy -- Cosmography.

1) The world.

*192 823 According to their conceptions, the earth, Di'tã, is a plain covered by a regular and solid spherical calotte, which is called Õ'mã̃-se (high thing), the sky, with four doors /Port. portas, doors; gates/ corresponding to the four cardinal points, through which the waters of the rivers escape. If these doors were to be closed, the waters would flood the lands and drown all humanity. (Cf. the Legend of the snake Sẽ, p.)

[821] They differentiate the clouds into oxkó-kururí, the nimbi, and o'mẽ-kurúri, cirri.

They call the cardinal points "porta" /door, gate/, Soxpé, and designate them as follows: East, Síro-ká-soxpé (back door); West, Pó'té-ká-soxpé (front door, to wit, of the river); South, Kũ̃'pé-ká-soxpé (left door, from which the Uaupés rises); North, Dyakõ̃-ká-soxpé (right door).

2) Heavenly bodies and stars.

*192 821 They do not know how to explain how the stars, Yõxkõã, were formed. All the constellations, however, have a legendary origin. They even assert that the sun, the moon, and the stars are people, Maxsã̃, according to their legends. As confirmation, it is to be